

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 6 and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus aligning and stacking a sheet or sheet bundle comprising:

stacking portion on which the sheet or sheet bundle is stacked;

conveying portion which conveys the sheet or sheet bundle toward the stacking means portion;

sheet rear end aligning unit which aligns a rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle upon pressing toward the stacking portion, the rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle conveyed by the conveying means portion; and

controlling portion which controls acceleration of the sheet rear end aligning unit by determining at least one feature of the sheet or sheet bundle being pressed,

wherein the controlling portion controls the acceleration of the sheet rear end aligning unit so that acceleration of the sheet or sheet bundle by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit satisfies a relation:

$$\alpha \leq -\mu_1' g \text{ and } \alpha \leq -\mu_2' g$$

where acceleration of the sheet or sheet bundle by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit at a time that the sheet rear end aligning unit presses the rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle to align the rear end, is denoted as α , where gravitational acceleration is denoted as g , where coefficient of kinetic friction between the sheet or sheet bundle pressed by the sheet rear end aligning unit and the stacking portion is denoted as μ_1' , and where coefficient of kinetic friction between the sheet or sheet bundle pressed by the sheet rear end aligning unit and the sheet or sheet bundle already stacked on the stacking portion is denoted as μ_2' .

2. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a processing unit capable of temporarily stacking the sheets, disposed on an upstream side of the stacking portion and the conveying portion in the sheet conveyance direction, wherein the sheet or sheet bundle processed by the processing unit is conveyed to the stacking portion by the conveying portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the processing unit includes a processing tray capable of temporarily stacking the sheet or sheet bundle, an aligning unit which aligns the sheet or sheet bundle stacked on the processing tray, and a stapler unit which staples the sheet bundle aligned by the aligning unit.

4. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stacking portion has a stacking surface, extending substantially horizontally, which stacks the sheet or sheet bundle.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section which forms an image on a sheet; and
a sheet processing apparatus which aligns and stacks the sheet delivered from the image forming section,

wherein the sheet processing apparatus is as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming section which forms an image on a sheet or sheet bundle;

stacking portion which stacks the sheet or sheet bundle on which the image is formed by the image forming section;

conveying portion which conveys the sheet or sheet bundle toward the stacking portion;

sheet rear end aligning unit which aligns a rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle upon pressing, toward the stacking portion, the rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle conveyed by the conveying portion; and

controlling portion which controls acceleration of the sheet rear end aligning unit by determining at least one characteristic feature of the sheet or sheet bundle being pressed,

wherein the controlling portion controls the acceleration of the sheet rear end aligning unit so that acceleration of the sheet or sheet bundle by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit satisfies a relation:

$$\alpha \leq -\mu_1' g \text{ and } \alpha \leq -\mu_2' g$$

where acceleration of the sheet or sheet bundle by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit at a time that the sheet rear end aligning unit presses the rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle to align the rear end, is denoted as α , where gravitational acceleration is denoted as g , where coefficient of kinetic friction between the sheet or sheet bundle pressed by the sheet rear end aligning unit and the stacking portion is denoted as μ_1' , and where coefficient of kinetic friction between the sheet or sheet bundle pressed by the sheet rear end aligning unit and the sheet or sheet bundle already stacked on the stacking portion is denoted as μ_2' .

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising processing unit capable of temporarily stacking the sheet or sheet bundle ,

disposed on an upstream side of the stacking portion and the conveying portion in the sheet conveyance direction, wherein the sheet or sheet bundle processed by the processing unit is conveyed to the stacking portion by the conveying portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming sheet processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the processing unit includes a processing tray capable of temporarily stacking the sheet or sheet bundle, an aligning unit which aligns the sheet or sheet bundle stacked on the processing tray, and a stapler unit which staples the sheet bundle aligned by the aligning unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the stacking portion has a stacking surface, extending substantially horizontally, which stacks the sheet or sheet bundle.

10. (Previously Presented) A sheet processing apparatus aligning and stacking a sheet comprising:

a stacking portion on which sheets or sheet bundles are stacked;

a conveying portion which conveys the sheet or sheet bundle toward the stacking portion;

a sheet rear end aligning unit which aligns a rear end of the sheet or sheet bundle upon pressing, toward the stacking portion, the rear end of the sheet or the sheet bundle conveyed by the conveying portion; and

a controller which controls acceleration of the sheet rear end aligning unit,

wherein acceleration of the sheet or sheet bundle by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit is determined based on a feature of the sheet or sheet bundle being pressed.

11. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a processing unit capable of temporarily stacking the sheet or sheet bundle , disposed on an upstream side of the stacking portion and the conveying portion in the sheet conveyance direction, wherein the sheet or sheet bundle processed by the processing unit is conveyed to the stacking portion by the conveying portion.

12. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the processing unit includes a processing tray capable of temporarily stacking the sheet or sheet bundle, an alignment unit which aligns the sheet or sheet bundle in the sheet width direction, stacked on the processing tray, and a stapler unit which staples the sheets aligned by the alignment unit.

13. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the stacking portion has a stacking surface, extending substantially horizontally, which stacks the sheets or sheet bundles.

14. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section which forms an image on a sheet or sheet bundle; and
a sheet processing apparatus which aligns and stacks the sheet or sheet bundle delivered from the image forming section,

wherein the sheet processing apparatus is as set forth in any one of claims 10 to 13.

15. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus forming an image on a sheet, comprising:

an image forming section which forms an image on the sheet;

a stacking portion on which sheets or sheet bundles on which the image is formed by the image forming section are stacked;

a conveying portion which conveys the sheets or the sheet bundles toward the stacking portion;

a sheet rear end aligning portion which aligns a rear end of the sheet or the sheet bundle upon pressing toward the stacking portion, the rear end of the sheets or the sheet bundles conveyed by the conveying portion; and

a controller which controls acceleration of the rear end aligning unit,

wherein acceleration of the sheets or the sheet bundles by pressing of the sheet rear end aligning unit is determined based on a feature of sheets or sheet bundles being pressed and a feature of sheet stacked on the stacking portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a processing unit capable of temporarily stacking the sheets, disposed on an upstream side of the stacking tray and the conveying portion in the sheet conveyance direction, wherein the sheets processed at the processing unit is conveyed to the stacking portion by the conveying portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the processing unit includes a processing tray capable of temporarily stacking the sheets, an aligning unit which aligns the sheets in the sheet width direction, stacked on the processing tray, and a stapler unit which staples the sheets aligned by the aligning unit.

18. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the stacking portion has a stacking surface, extending substantially horizontally, which stacks the sheets or the sheet bundles.

19. (Previously Presented) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one feature is one of (1) a kind of sheet or sheet bundle or (2) toner amounts carried on the sheet or sheet bundle.

20. (Currently Amended) The sheet processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least one ~~characteristic~~ feature is one of (1) a kind of sheet or sheet bundle or (2) toner amounts carried on the sheet or sheet bundle.